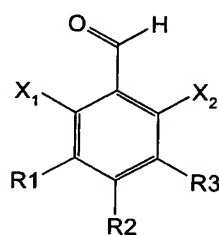
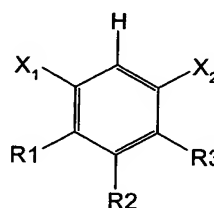


What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing 1,3-di-halo-substituted benzene derivatives (II) from 2,6-di-halo-substituted benzaldehydes (I) (where X_1 , X_2 are each independently F, Cl, Br, and R_1 , R_2 , R_3 are each independently H, halogen, OH, C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl, CF_3 , CHO, C_6 - C_{14} -aryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, NO_2) by reacting with an alkaline medium, which comprises initially charging the alkaline medium and metering in the 2,6-di-halo-substituted benzaldehyde (I) or initially charging the 2,6-di-halo-substituted benzaldehyde (I) and metering in the alkaline medium.



(I)



(II)

2. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the 2,6-di-halo-substituted benzaldehydes (I) used are 2,6-difluorobenzaldehyde, 2-chloro-6-fluorobenzaldehyde, tetrafluoroterephthalaldehyde, 2,4,6-trifluorobenzaldehyde, 4-chloro-2,6-difluorobenzaldehyde, 2,4-dichloro-6-fluorobenzaldehyde, pentafluorobenzaldehyde, 3,5-dichloro-2,4,6-trifluorobenzaldehyde, 2,4,5,6-tetrafluorobenzene-1,3-dicarbaldehyde or 5-chloro-2,4,6-trifluorobenzene-1,3-dicarbaldehyde.

3. The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the 2,6-di-halo-substituted benzaldehydes (I) used are 2,6-difluorobenzaldehyde, 2-chloro-6-fluorobenzaldehyde or tetrafluoroterephthalaldehyde.

4. The process as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the alkaline medium used is an aqueous alkali metal or alkaline earth metal hydroxide or carbonate solution.
5. The process as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the reaction is carried out within a temperature range of 50 - 215°C.
6. The process as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the reaction is carried out within a temperature range of 70 - 160°C.
7. The process as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the reaction is carried out under a protective gas.
8. The process as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the concentration of the alkaline medium is in the range from 40 to 50% by weight.
9. The process as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the yields of the derivatives of the formula (II) are > 80%.